

REMARKS

Claims 2-25 are pending. Claims 2-14 and 19-24 are allowed. Claims 15-18 and 25 are rejected. Claims 16, 18 and 25 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as lacking utility, Claims 16 and 18 are stand further rejected as indefinite under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, and Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Kim U.S. Patent No. 6,668,343 (hereinafter Kim). These rejections are overcome for the exemplary reasons set forth below.

Indefiniteness

Claims 16 and 18 are amended above as believed appropriate to overcome the 35 U.S.C 112 rejections.

Utility

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections of Claims 15-18 for lack of utility, the Office Action appears to maintain on page 4 (paragraph 11) that the rejections are proper because the rejected claims allegedly "fail[s] to specify or recite any utility associated with the claimed invention." However, MPEP Section 2701 states that, in addressing the question of patentable utility, the Patent Office is to "[r]eview the claims and the supporting written description" (emphasis added). Section 2701 further states that a

rejection for lack of utility should not be imposed if the Patent Office review indicates that the following two conditions are met:

1. "the applicant has asserted that the claimed invention is useful for any particular practical purpose"; and
2. "the assertion would be considered credible by a person of ordinary skill in the art".

Applicant respectfully submits that both of the conditions quoted above are well satisfied by the written description, for example, at line 8 of page 4 through line 1 of page 5, and at lines 4-6 of page 13. Accordingly, withdrawal of the lack of utility rejection is believed to be in order.

Anticipation

Turning now to the anticipation rejection of Claim 25 based on Kim, Claim 25 is amended above to recite

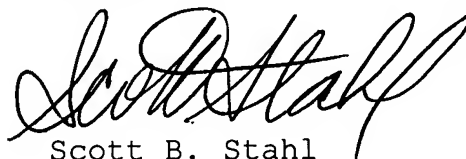
"a read address generator coupled to the read address port for applying a sequence of read addresses to the read address port, said read address generator configured to generate a plurality of read addresses, and further configured for selecting a subset of said plurality of read addresses to define said sequence of read addresses."

This exemplary feature has not been found to be taught or suggested by Kim. Claim 25 is therefore believed to distinguish patentably over Kim.

Conclusion

All pending claim rejections are believed to be overcome for the exemplary reasons given above. Accordingly, the application should now be in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott B. Stahl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Stahl" clearly distinguishable.

Scott B. Stahl
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